

WHEATLAND NEWS

April 2024



East Window of St Lawrence's Church, Bigbury-on-Sea, Devon

**News from the Diocese of Hereford and the
17 Parishes around Stottesdon, Ditton Priors
and Highley**

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Editorial

This month is heralded as the beginning of spring with the clocks changing to British Summer Time (BST). We wonder if the weather will follow this idea and change to sunshine and the odd April shower!

The torrential rain has caused problems, not only for the farmers who have been unable to work on their land, but for commuters and other people wishing to travel unhindered by floods and deteriorating road surfaces. In spite of this, signs of spring have been evident all around with the bright green leaves appearing in the hedgerows and the daffodils, primroses and magnolias shining forth.

We loved Peter the Donkey, who made a fleeting appearance in the Bishop’s Easter video message – he looked so splendid we couldn’t resist sharing him here! Also, do look at this month’s Molecule – the picture of the molecule is just like an exquisite embroidery.....



In this month’s magazine there is much information about activities throughout the Wheatland area, dates for events in the next month and forthcoming ones later in the year.

The Useful Community Contacts list (see page 27) for some emergency situations, local transport, activities, groups and other important details is in the process of being updated. Please send any changes to your local coordinator, as listed below.

Ed

Please continue to send reports to your contact for your parishes listed below. The **deadline** for getting your contributions for the **MAY 2024** edition of WN to the **EDITOR** will be **noon on Tuesday 23rd April 2024**. Please, please help us to help our printer and our distributors so that we get WN to you in good time each month.

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Farlow, Sidbury, Middleton Scriven, Cleeton St Mary, and Silvington	Chris Tibbits - Chris@stottystores.co.uk



Diocese of Hereford

April Newsletter from the Archdeacon of Ludlow



Dear Friends,

April marks the 100th anniversary of the first broadcast by a monarch of the United Kingdom, when King George V opened the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley in north London in April 1924. The speech lasts about six and a half minutes, and you can hear it in all its scratchily-recorded glory on YouTube.

I wonder if anyone then had any idea how much broadcasting would change in the coming century? We now take for granted the fact that we can see and hear almost anyone in public life at any time thanks to a 24-hour media. TikTok and Instagram have brought broadcasting within reach of any of us with a smartphone.

Communication seems to be hard-wired into us as human beings. That shouldn't surprise us, because our God is a God who communicates. Back in the earliest chapters of Genesis, it's the voice of God that brings creation into being. When Jesus is awoken by his terrified disciples in the middle of a storm, it's his words shouted into the tumult that calm the winds and the waves. When the Holy Spirit comes upon the apostles at Pentecost, they speak the message of Christ crucified and risen in words their hearers can understand.

The story is told of a rabbi who could never get further in his reading of the Scriptures than Genesis 1:2, "And God said." The wonder of a God who speaks was too much for him to take in.

I wonder if that's why we love podcasts, audiobooks, and the radio so much – because it's as if someone were sitting next to us and chatting? As if we're listening in on a conversation that we're invited to be part of?

I wonder, too, if that's why words can wound us as well as heal us – because they go deep into the heart of our being?

The apostle James talked about the power of speech, how hard it is to tame the tongue, and how inconsistent we are when we say, "Praise God," in one breath and in the next run down another human being. Those are challenging words in an era where talk is easy, but we do well to take them to heart.

There are other times when we are slow to speak, perhaps out of anxiety or fear. Once such time can be when we try to talk about our faith. In this, our Diocesan Year of Faith, we are all encouraged to have confidence that the story we have to share in our Christian faith is one people want to hear, and to become more comfortable talking about our faith.

We may never become those who broadcast to the world, as King George V did 100 years ago, but I wonder how we could learn to "broadcast" our faith in simple ways, and speak words of life to those who are longing to hear them?

AD Fiona

The Bishop's weekly video message

"May we all know Christ's example,
his forgiveness
and his transforming power this Easter."

*Watch him on YouTube Hereford Diocese
or on the Diocese website, where the transcript also
appears.*



Saint of the Month

Catherine of Siena

1347 - 1380

by Revd Joe Simons



I am a huge fan of Tuscany in Northern Italy and Siena is a jewel in that beautiful place. I travelled extensively in Tuscany when I was a

younger man, I was captivated by the light and the extraordinary beauty of the whole area. Siena is a beautiful city with some of the finest medieval buildings in Italy. I can still remember going inside the Duomo di Santa Maria Assunta, Siena Cathedral, to be greeted by some of the finest fresco's I have ever seen along with sculptures including works by Michelangelo. The floor of the cathedral, the opus sectile, is a masterpiece in its scale and beauty representing thematically the book of Revelation, the whole place was filled with light and beauty.

Catherine was born into this environment in 1347 and enjoyed many of the remarkable mystical experiences which I also enjoyed when I visited the cathedral. She experienced the movements of consolation and desolation in her own spiritual life. Living just 33 years she joined the Dominicans at 16 years old and was noted for her service to the sick, especially victims of the plague and those suffering from distressing illnesses. She ministered to condemned prisoners and gave her spiritual counsel to a great many people who sought her guidance. She was also noted for her efforts to bring peace to the church, seeking to heal the divisions over the Papacy and its exile to Avignon.

One of the most beautiful aspects about Tuscany and the Duomo di Santa Maria Assunta is the presence of light, a light which God shines on places and situations where there is sin or discord. Catherine would do whatever it took to achieve that, she was one of the world's greatest peacemakers. She was canonised as a saint in 1461.

In our world today where peace seems a distant and unattainable memory in so many places may our prayer be that the light of God will shine and bring healing.

JS

Readings for April 2024

Sunday 7th April - The Second Sunday of Easter - White

Psalm 133; (Exodus 14. 10 – end; 15. 20 – 21); Acts 4. 32 – 35; 1 John 1. 1 – 2.2;
John 20. 19 – end

Sunday 14th April - The Third Sunday of Easter - White

Psalm 4; (Zephaniah 3. 14 – end); Acts 3. 12 – 19; 1 John 3. 1 – 7; Luke 24. 36b - 48

Sunday 21st April - The Fourth Sunday of Easter - White


Psalm 23; (Genesis 7. 1 -5, 11 – 18; 8. 6 – 18; 9. 8 – 13); Acts 4. 5 – 12; 1 John 3. 16 – end;
John 10. 11 - 18

Sunday 28th April - The Fifth Sunday of Easter - White

Psalm 22. 25 – end; (Baruch 3. 9 – 15, 32 – 4.4 or Genesis 22. 1 – 18);
Acts 8. 26 – end; 1 John 4. 7 – end; John 15. 1 – 8

Sunday 5th May - The Sixth Sunday of Easter - White

Psalm 98; (Isaiah 55. 1 – 11); Acts 10. 44 – end; 1 John 5. 1 – 6; John 15. 9 - 17

	<h2 style="text-align: center;">Brown Clee Churches</h2> <p style="text-align: center;">Priest-in-Charge: Revd Joe Simons</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The Vicarage, Ditton Priors, Shropshire WV16 6SQ 01746-599217 07872-464276 browncleebenefice@outlook.com</p>	
<p>St John the Baptist, Ditton Priors, and Holy Trinity, Wheathill & Loughton CHURCHWARDENS Carole Smith: 01746-712474 Mark Smith: 01746-712394</p>	<p>St Michael & All Angels, Aston Botterell CHURCHWARDEN Anne Preece: 01746-787237</p>	
<p>St Giles, Chetton CHURCHWARDEN Sheila Millington: 01746-789443</p>	<p>SS Peter & Paul, Cleobury North CHURCHWARDENS Mike Bradbury: 01746-787676 Jane Bufton: 01746-787298</p>	<p>All Saints, Neenton CHURCHWARDEN Bobbie Jarvis: 01746-787093</p>

Easter Reflection

Standing at the heart of the Easter story is a message of love

When Jesus was challenged by one of the scribes, to tell when asked, ‘Which commandment is the first of all? Jesus answered. ‘The first is this, “Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your mind and with all your strength.” The second is this, “You shall love your neighbour as yourself.” There is no other commandment greater than these.

What we build our lives around is relationships, we as Christians place a hierarchy around these relationships; with God at the top, followed by others and ourselves at the bottom. Love sits at the core of who we are but also how we function as a community. It is my belief that we were created to love one another, whether we follow Jesus or not.

The message at Easter is one of love, love that is both freely given and also received. When we focus on the cross, we can see the inexhaustible love of God shown in Jesus who was willing to die for us. This sacrificial love is what we celebrate when we share God’s love for us and our love for God at the Lord’s Supper, Holy Communion.

It is hard in our society today where relationships are fractured at a local, national and global level. Issues of power, prejudice and envy take hold pushing out compassion, kindness, gentleness, and patience. With all the myriad of problems throughout our world Easter is a time for us to take stock of our own relationships and maybe think about how we demonstrate love for others and for ourselves. Love is this medium in which we grow to fullness of life. When love is harmed by distortion, rejection or abused we suffer.

Christ made the supreme sacrifice of love for others, for all that turn to him. His is a model of self-giving love that puts others first and that aligns itself with those on the margin who believe they are unloved or unlovely.

May we this Easter in a world riven with so much that points away from love, bring ourselves back to the heart of what we are here for, to love and be loved.

Revd Joe Simons

Services in Brown Clee Churches during April 2024

Please note the new earlier time at Ditton Priors!

Sunday 7th April	9:30am	Holy Communion	Ditton Priors
	11:30am	Holy Communion	Aston Botterell
Sunday 14 th April	9:30am	Holy Communion	Ditton Priors
	11:30am	Holy Communion	Chetton
Sunday 21 st April	9:30am	Holy Communion	Ditton Priors
	11:30am	Holy Communion	Neenton
	6:00pm	Holy Communion	Loughton
Sunday 28 th April	10:00am	Group Holy Communion	Cleobury North
Sunday 5 th May	9:30am	Holy Communion	Ditton Priors
	11:30am	Holy Communion	Aston Botterell

News for all Brown Clee Churches



Praying Together

As a Benefice we would love to come together to be able to pray into the community. We are planning to do this in two ways. The first will be a WhatsApp group that we can dip in and out of, sharing our messages of care and support for any that wish to be involved. Then we will be setting up a once-a-week prayer group online. This will be a simple evening prayer session again for anyone who feels like joining us regularly or occasionally. We will publish more details of these two initiatives after Easter and Karen Simons will be pleased to help any of you who might like a hand setting yourselves up to join either group.

If you would like to contact Karen to chat anything through, then please do ring the Benefice Office on 01746-599217 or email her on browncleebenefice@outlook.com

Mothering Sunday

The Benefice Mothering Sunday Service on 10th March was very well attended. We reflected on the self-giving love of our mothers and all who care for us, remembering that in God we see that same love which holds us in both sorrow and joy.

A special thank you to Carole Smith for organising the beautiful polyanthus pots that were given out to each family.

Lent Lunch

The Lent Lunch on Thursday 22nd February was a great success. Thank you to everyone who was involved in organising this special get-together. From making the lunch with the delicious soups, to setting up and clearing away the venue, and organising the raffle. It was a really lovely event.

Parish APCMs

We have three APCMs left in April.

- Cleobury North on Monday 15th April, at The Old Rectory, Cleobury North at 6.30pm
- Neenton on Thursday 18th April at All Saints Church, Neenton at 6.30pm
- Ditton Priors on Thursday 25th April at St. John the Baptist Church, Ditton Priors, at 6.00pm

If you would like to get involved with a church in the Benefice please contact any of the Churchwarden's (contact numbers in the Wheatland News), Revd Joe, or Emma at The Benefice Office 01746 599217, browncleebenefice@outlook.com and we will be very happy to pass on your details, or answer any questions that you may have.

Brown Clee School & Little Explorers Easter Service

The school Easter Service took place at St. John the Baptist Ditton Priors, on Monday 18th March. It was wonderful to see the church full, with all our visitors from Brown Clee School and Little Explorers along with teachers, parents, grandparents and carers.



A special welcome from Revd Joe who greeted all the children with peals of bells, thank you to Mark Smith for the tutorial!

Joe spoke about the importance of the cross and what it symbolises in our lives, especially as a sign of sadness, but also of great joy and hope for the future.

We look forward to seeing you all again soon.

[See also the School in Church item in Ditton Priors News, below. Ed]

Brown Clee - events to come

Finally, there are so many lovely events coming up in the Benefice over the next few months. We will put as many as possible on the pew sheet but please remember you can also look further ahead in the diary by accessing 'A Church Near You.'

Brown Clee Medical Practice - Patient Participation Group

Tina Ranson writes:

A date for your diary – the **next meeting of the PPG** will be held in Ditton Priors Village Hall during the evening of **Tuesday 21st May**. More information will be available nearer the time, and in the May edition of WN. The venue limit is 100 people at an event, and these meetings are proving popular. All members are welcome, but please reserve your place early – **the contact email and telephone number are now included in the Useful Local Contacts** table on page 27, under Brown Clee Medical Practice.

Ditton Priors News

Marjorie Jones writes:

School in Church

It was good to see a packed church on Monday 18th March for their Easter service. The service, led by Revd Joe, featured the symbol of the cross and the children led the prayers. Revd Joe was assisted by Mike Teague and the new projector screen was splendid. The projector was borrowed from Hereford, but we shall look at getting one for the benefice.

Church Services in April

- ✝ Sunday 7th April – 9:30am – Holy Communion
- ✝ Sunday 14th April – 9:30am – Holy Communion
- ✝ Sunday 14th April – 9:30am – Holy Communion
- ✝ Sunday 28th April – 10:00 am - Group Holy Communion – Cleobury North
- ✝ Sunday 5th May – 9:30am – Holy Communion

From the Registers

- 14th March 2024 – Funeral Service of Joyce Jervis at Telford Crematorium
- 21st March 2024 – Funeral Service of Shelly Ann Hyde at Bushbury Crematorium, Wolverhampton

Cleaning Rota for April

- Sunday 7th April – Mr & Mrs Tony Brown
- Sunday 14th April – Mrs Jutta Langham & Mr Steve Allen
- Sunday 21st April - Mrs Carole Hancox & Mrs Maureen Lloyd
- Sunday 28th April – Mr & Mrs Graham Russell
- Sunday 5th May – Mrs Shirley Wall & Mrs Anita Casswell

St John the Baptist Church 100 club

The new year – 2024/2025 - for our 100 club starts on the 1st May.

I will have forms soon and hope to welcome existing and new members to join. It is £12 for twelve monthly draws. Thank you. Shirley Wall. 07530-089808

St John the Baptist 100 Club results – March 2024

- £20 – Neil Colebatch
- £10 – Paul Wilson
- £5 each to “Bertie Pinson”, Carla Bow, Catherine Price

Events and dates for your diary!

First Saturday of the Month Coffee Mornings

10:30 – 12:00 noon in church. There is no charge for this community event – and it is open to everyone! Next dates are Saturdays 6th April, 4th May, 1st June, 6th July and 3rd August.

Spring Lunch – Sunday 28th April

12:30 pm for 1:00pm in Ditton Priors Village Hall. Roast Beef, desserts, cheese and biscuits, coffee. Please bring your own drinks and glasses. Tickets £12.50 each from Marjorie – 01746-712423. Please book early!

**Margaret Griffiths invites you to her
100th birthday celebration!**

You are invited to afternoon tea from 3-5pm on Sunday 5th May at
Ditton Priors Village Hall to celebrate my 100th birthday.

All are welcome.

No gifts thank you but if anyone wishes to make a donation, these will
be shared between the parish church of St. John the Baptist and
Guide Dogs for the Blind.

Bridgnorth Walk Day - Monday 6th May

The church will be open from 10.30 am onwards serving coffee, tea, and cakes.

Church Fete - Saturday 18th May, in and around the church.

Items for stalls please and if anyone would like their own stall, please book with Marjorie (712423) The fete will be open at 1pm with the BBQ.

...And later in the year:

- ⇒ Saturday 15th June – Teas in the Churchyard
- ⇒ Saturday 6th July – Pimms and Puds in the Vicarage Garden
- ⇒ Thursday 1st August – Burwarton Show Refreshment Tent
- ⇒ Saturday 14th September – Ride and Stride – Shropshire Historic Churches Trust
- ⇒ Saturday 21st September – Benefice Festival
- ⇒ Saturday 12th October – Harvest Supper in Ditton Priors Village Hall
- ⇒ Saturday 23rd November – Christmas Fair at the Pavilion

Community events

Race Night at Ditton Priors Village Hall – Saturday 6th April, 7:00pm - raising money for new play equipment. Buy a horse for £3, or sponsor a race for £25! Tickets £7 including Jacket Potato and Chili – vegetarian option available. Licensed Bar. Tickets from dittonpriorssevents@btinternet.com, or Ditton Priors Post Office or Parker Motors.

Quiz Night and Ploughman's Supper - Friday 24th May, 7:00pm for 7:30pm in the Pavilion in Ditton Priors. £15 per head: please bring your own drinks and glasses. There will be a raffle, and we look forward to a fun-packed evening. Please contact Helen Groves on 01746-712466 to reserve your place!

Bingo Night - Saturday 1st June – Ditton Priors Village Hall – further details to come.

Beerfest and Fun Day - Saturday 13th July, Ditton Priors Village Hall – further details to come.

Ditton Priors Local History Group

History Group maps out another successful event!

A fantastic turn out of over 60 people enjoyed the latest Ditton Priors Local History Group event, 'Early Maps of Shropshire', in the village hall on 14th March.



Expert guest speaker, Patricia de Haan, delivered a fascinating presentation, charting the origins of the very first maps of Shropshire.

The informative and entertaining talk was accompanied by a visual presentation and Pat also brought along some of the first printed maps of Shropshire from her personal collection, dating from 1577 - 1675.



A huge thank you to Patricia and her husband David. Also particular thanks to committee member Jeannette Coles for the event idea and introducing the evening, and of course to everyone who came along to support it!



The Group's next event is provisionally scheduled for May - watch this space for further details.

Want to join the Ditton Priors Local History Group?

Just come along to the Group's AGM at Ditton Priors Village Hall at 7pm on Tuesday 9th April. Following the formal meeting new memberships and renewals will be taken, just £12 per annum. Free memberships for under 18's too!

DITTON PRIORS LOCAL HISTORY GROUP



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

• All welcome!* Your chance to hear what's been going on with the Local History Group: Our events, future plans and work behind the scenes.

• Election of the Committee. If you're interested in joining the committee, nominations are invited by 8th April 2024 latest. Please email markgregory963@gmail.com

• If you're not already a member this is a great opportunity to join! New memberships and renewals will be taken at the end of the meeting. Just £12 per person per annum. Free membership for under 18's too!

PLUS:
'DITTON NOW & THEN'
A short slide show of local photographs taken from the same viewpoint, but many years apart, showing how scenes have changed



*Everyone welcome but please note: Non-members will not be able to participate or vote in the formal part of the meeting.

Wheathill & Loughton News

Marjorie Jones writes

Church services

✝ Sunday 21st April - 6.00pm at Loughton – Evening Prayer

The Palm Sunday evening prayer at Wheathill was shared by seven of us and two handsome black cats. Revd Joe led a New Zealand night prayer – beautiful in its simplicity. As we left the building, a beautiful full moon shone down upon us giving feelings of blessings and assurance of God's never-ending love.

Church ground maintenance

As the grass growing season is upon us a start has been made on the clearing and mowing of both grounds. The wet but mild winter has meant that there was a lot of initial clearing to do both by paid and volunteer workers. To this we thank David Lowe for cutting the hedges and Paul Brennan and his team for their superb work on clearing the grounds and giving them the first cut.

The PCC try to ensure that our churchyard and cemetery are places of peace and beauty.

We recognise that fresh flowers greatly enhance the appearance of a churchyard and are a comfort to bereaved families and we welcome this. We would however be grateful if they could be removed if possible once they were over.

Artificial flowers are inappropriate and are discouraged.

Due to safety concerns, throughout the year when grass cutting and strimming take place, the use of jam jars or glass of any kind is prohibited.

Please help us to ensure that our grounds can be enjoyed by everyone and if you can help by giving your time for an occasional clear up this would be appreciated. Donations are of course always welcome to help meet the ever-increasing costs.

Please contact the Churchwardens if you have any queries.



Aston Botterell News

Anne Preece writes:

Welcome to Ben Upton, who has joined me as a Churchwarden at Aston Botterell!

Church services

✝ Sunday 7th April – 11:30 am – Holy Communion

✝ Sunday 5th May – 11:30am – Holy Communion

Condolences

We send our condolences to George Hill and family also to Cherry his daughter who has struggled with ill health during this sad time. George is now in the Innage home in Bridgnorth and, I am sure, would be pleased to see any visitors.

Dates for your dairy

- Saturday 13th April - Social Breakfast at The Boyne Arms at 09.30am, plus raffle. £10 p.p.
- Sunday 16th June - Car treasure hunt starts at 13.30 details next month!
- Friday 19th July - Quiz and Carvery at The Down Inn, grand raffle drawn at 7 pm.
- Sunday 22nd December – “Aston Lumiere” church and houses decorated for the Carol service at 5 pm ...refreshments and a brass bandnot forgetting father Xmas.

Lottery winners – 50 Club results for March 2024

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £20 – Lady Rosemary – No 115 • £10 – Iris Meredith - No 72 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £5 – David Wright - No 55 • £5 – Edwyna Bennett - No 210
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Daddy's Hat

On 17th March at Aston Botterell we held "Daddy's Hat " at 3 pm with light refreshments. It was well attended and what a lovely time we had listening to local musicians. It was a joy to listen to and swing along to the beat. Thank you Sally and Revd David Poyner for running Daddy's hat also Val Smith who supports it as well but was unable to attend. It was lovely to see Jim Hurford who was a long serving church warden for Loughton. Daddy's Hat was started by Sally here in Aston church to help people during the pandemic.



**Daddy's Hat will be in
St Peter's Church
Chelmarsh on 20th
April – see page 20.**

What a treat, and good fun! Pictured are Marcia on accordion, Paul on keyboards and vocals, Ami on fiddle and 5-string banjo and Penny on vocals – with Sally being the lady with the singalong words. As well as Lambeth Walk, Peter sang O Sole Mio, with the audience joining in for the chorus of 'just one cornetto', and Ami and Marcia played their great duet of duelling banjos – with Marcia on accordion of course! The impromptu Clee Liberty Band are great entertainers and are all extremely talented musicians. Ed

Cleobury North & District Village Hall

CNVH remains open and available for hire. For enquiries about booking and using the hall, please call 01746-787093 and leave a message or send a TEXT MESSAGE to 07483-879763 (or both!).

Cleobury North News

Lottery results

- 1st - Gwen Lycett
- 2nd - Colin & Kink Hadley
- 3rd - Lulu Hornsey



What is special about a hot cross bun?

The cross on the bun represents the cross on which Jesus died.

The four quarters of the bun represent the four corners of the world.

The spices in the bun suggest the spices used to anoint the dead.

The yeast in the bun makes it rise, and reminds us that Jesus rose from the dead on Easter Sunday.

Through His death and resurrection Jesus brought an eternal hope to the world.

Find out what this hope means for you at www.exeter.anglican.org

Passover Meal – Thursday 28th March

This evening marked the final Passover meal which Jesus shared with his disciples: The Last Supper. The Passover story was told through readings and poems and singing of songs during which time food was served.

The evening was well-supported by members of the congregations from all the churches in the Brown Clee Benefice and brought a sense of togetherness within the group and new friendships being made.

We wish to thank Revd Val Smith who prepared, cooked and delivered her legendary lamb hotpot accompanied by crusty bread. Hot cross buns were served and the meal concluded with each person sharing the bread and wine.

Thanks also to Mike Teague for arranging the order of service with Revd Joe Simons and for supplying the music. The group choir enhanced the singing which raised the roof in the Village Hall.

Donations for the evening were given to Cleobury North Church Appeal.

Leaflet on the meaning of the Hot Cross Bun, distributed in churches in the diocese of Exeter

Chetton News

Pam Downing writes:

Services at St Giles' Church in April

As I write, we are looking forward to all the Easter services across the Benefice.

✝ Sunday 14th April – 11:30am – Holy Communion

Flowers and Cleaning – Lisa and Sue B.

Dates for your diaries

We are holding another **Breakfast at The Down on Saturday 27th April**, 9am start. Please let Sheila know numbers.

The **Midland Oil Engine Club** – are holding a show on **Sunday 12th May** at Lower Cockshutt Farm, WV16 6RF. There will also be a **Tractor run** leaving at 10am and returning early afternoon. Tony Maiklem is kindly organising and taking entries for this, email tonym789666@gmail.com

There will be plenty to see: stationary engines, vintage vehicles, military vehicles, agricultural plant and a few craft stalls to browse. On display too will be a Harrier GR3 plane which, weather permitting, will be started up around 3pm. We will ask for **donations on entry**, proceeds to Midlands Air Ambulance & St Giles Church, Chetton.

Chetton 100 Club - £15 – Charlotte Meehan no 17

£10 – Peter Skidmore no 59.

Chetton Village Hall

Tea with the Lord Lieutenant of Shropshire



Last month we had a visit from His Majesty's Lord

Lieutenant for Shropshire, Mrs Anna Turner. who gave a talk, which was followed by afternoon tea. The afternoon was much enjoyed by around 50 people.



Flicks in the Sticks.

The last film of the spring season is **'The King's Speech'** which will be shown on Friday 12th April. Doors will be open at 7:00pm with refreshments before the film starts at 7:30pm.

We will resume showing films in the Autumn. Any suggestions for films please send to wallsbatch@gmail.com.

The Annual Plant Sale – will be held on Sunday 19th May, 10:00 till noon.

Chetton Active Friends – exercise and recreational sessions

<p>Village Hall Diary for 2024</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Pam's Pilates on Mondays and Tuesdays 9:30am, and also on Tuesdays 11:00am. ■ Chetton Active Friends, Monday afternoons from 2pm. ■ Chetton and Glazeley WI meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm. ■ Bridgnorth Dog Club - Thursday evening, 6:00pm. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Zumba with Lisa Beards – Tuesdays - 2:30 pm ■ Ballroom and Sequence Dancing, Tuesday evenings, 7:00pm. ■ Chetton Folk dance club meets on the last Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm.
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Village Hall enquiries – for activities or hire at modest rates, contact Sue on 789239.

Neenton News

Bobbie Jarvis writes:

Services at All Saints' Church during April

✝ Sunday 21st April - 11:30am – Holy Communion

A short service was held on Monday 25th April to mark the start of Holy Week in the days before Easter, during which further services took place across the Brown Clee Benefice.

Promise Auction – Saturday 15th June

This fundraising event is planned for Saturday 15th June, to be held at The Down, to raise funds for repairs to the stonework around the magnificent Stained Glass window in Neenton Church.

This window created by the workshops of William Morris and funded by local subscription. It is Neenton's memorial for Frank Amies, John Leath and Harry Yapp – Neenton men who lost their lives in WWI.



We need two things please! – Promises, and bidders for the auction! Already some very exciting promises have been pledged – notably a visit to the Mercedes factory for a walk-round followed by a Simulator Racing session! But Promises don't have to be huge, and don't have to be material things. Be creative! All Promises will be much appreciated. Tickets for the Auction will be available at £25 per person to include a 2-course meal. There will be a raffle and lucky ticket prize. Come along and enjoy a fun evening. Further details for ticket purchase next month.

Neenton Fete and Duck Race – Saturday 14th September

All Saints' Tote – March

➤ 1st prize – Janet Elizabeth Preece

2nd prize – Margaret Griffiths

Attention all residents and visitors to Neenton!!

Wrickton Lane (the lane runs up the side of the Pheasant) will be closed for a week from **Monday 15th April** until **Friday 19th April** during the day. Signs and diversions will be signposted. Please make sure you leave time for your journey. Access will be limited. Letters from Kier on behalf of Shropshire Highways have been received by local residents of Neenton.

Dates for your Diary – don't forget:

Thursday 11th April – Gin Evening with talks and tasting. Tickets £25. Contact The Pheasant on the number below

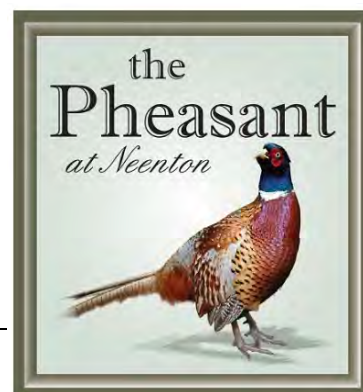
Please note: the Pheasant will be closed from **Friday 26th April** until **Tuesday 30th April** – reopening on **Wednesday 1st May 2024**.

Please call 01746-787955 or email info@pheasantatneenton.co.uk to discuss times and your requirements or book direct on the website.

Opening times



Wednesday / Thursday – 12 noon – 3pm, 6pm – 11pm
Friday / Saturday – 12 noon – 11pm
Sunday lunch 12 noon – 4.30pm



Molecule of the month

- Calmodulin Kinase II



Calmodulin Kinase II does not have the catchiest of names; gone are the days when biochemists could call their proteins “Old yellow enzyme” or the like. But the modern world of functionalism does have some advantages, at least in theory; the name of a protein should describe what it does. So what would the uninitiated biochemist deduce from calmodulin kinase II?

The first significant part of the name is the word “kinase”. A kinase is the name for a protein whose main role is stick a small molecule known as a phosphate group onto other proteins; using the jargon it is an enzyme whose job is to phosphorylate other molecules inside a cell. For the chemically minded, the phosphate group consists of a phosphorous atom surrounded by four oxygens and once attached to another molecule such as a protein, it carries a negative electric charge. In more simple terms, it is a small molecule that, once stuck on a bigger molecule, punches far above its weight to change the way the big molecule behaves. Usually it somehow activates the big molecule; we can think of it as an “on” switch.

The next important part of the name is the word “calmodulin”. A kinase needs something to activate it in the first place, before it can start sticking “on-switches” onto its targets. Calmodulin is the name of the activator for

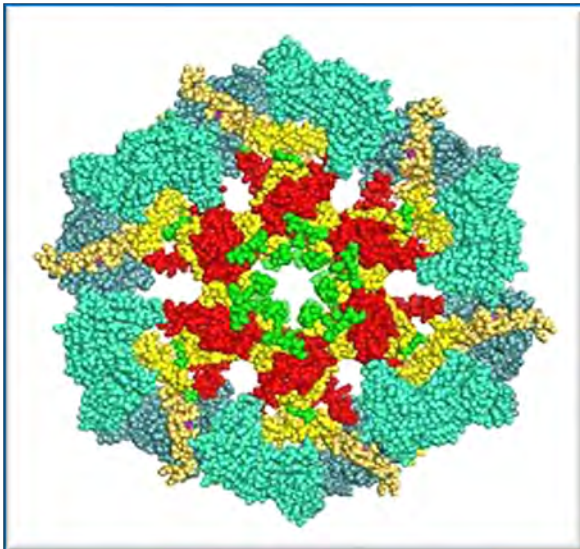


Figure. The structure of Calmodulin Kinase II (By Curtis Neveu - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=14508996>).

calmodulin kinase II. Calmodulin is found in almost every cell in the body, but for our purposes, it is particularly important that it is found in nerve cells. When nerves become active, one of the things that happens inside them, is that calmodulin is mobilised; it actually binds calcium ions, but this is a simply a detail. In simple terms, when a nerve is stimulated, its calmodulin activates calmodulin kinase II and this in turn switches on other proteins inside the nerve cell.

So why is this important? It has long been known that activation of calmodulin kinase II is essential for some forms of memory. I regularly repeat this story to my students at the university; I tell them that if they have been listening carefully to my lecture, calmodulin kinase II will do its magic. The net result of the activation it does it to cause nerve cells to grow closer to each, so that in 6 months’ time, when they sit the exam, the nerves they used to listen to me will still be well connected and so the memory of the lecture will come flooding back. Of course the same thing happens with sermons...

That at least was how matters stood until this Autumn, and indeed had been the dogma for the last 30 years. However, calmodulin kinase II does have a second role, besides sticking phosphate groups onto targets it wants to activate. It can also bind itself directly to some proteins, including a class known as “receptor gated ion-channels”. Again, the name is largely a detail, but the important fact is that these proteins are the key to how nerves cells communicate with each other; when we remember something, what is happening is that two or more nerves cell “talk” to each to recall the fact and it is the receptors that are key to this. Calmodulin kinase II does not stick phosphate groups on these receptors, but simply from the fact that it binds to them, it causes them to work better. It now seems that this is why it is so important in memory.

Sadly, I doubt my students will be any more able to remember this new mechanism than they were the old one. And nobody will remember a protein that is renamed “Calmodulin it-binds-to-receptors-so-you-remember-things II”....

DRP

The Severn Valley Group of Parishes



Severn Valley Benefice

Rector: Revd Kina Robertshaw

Revkinarobertshaw@gmail.com

~

Revd David Poyner, Associate Minister

Tel 01562 68638 (home) or 0121 204 3997 (work); email

D.R.Poyner@aston.ac.uk

St Mary, Highley
CHURCHWARDEN
Canev Clayton

St Mary, Billingsley
CHURCHWARDEN
Vacant

St Peter, Chelmarsh
CHURCHWARDEN
Vacant

St Bartholomew, Glazeley
CHURCHWARDEN
Laura Jones – 07714-432836, laura@laj.me.uk

Services in Glazeley and Billingsley during April

Sunday 14th April	
6:00pm	Billingsley
Sunday 21st April	
10:00am	Glazeley

Highley News

Revd Kina and Canev are about to embark upon a mission trip to Kenya and Uganda.

They will be attending a Christian Conference on Discipleship in Nairobi, and visiting Gulu in Uganda to spend time with Church Mission Partners Revds Simon and Sarah Cawdell (see latest update on page 21) to encourage and explore their ministry.

Thoughts and prayers will be appreciated.

Glazeley News

The Revd David Poyner writes:

We are making progress with the repair and enhancement of the church building. It is now possible to have all the wall heaters on together; the first time this has been possible for quite a few years. We also intend to purchase some extra heating elements; at the moment some of the heaters are only working on half power. Glazeley will never be a warm building in the middle of the winter, but we hope at that at least we can direct some heat to the (growing!) numbers who attend our services.

We have also removed floor boards to assess the extent of the damage caused by damp at the back of the church. There was only one vent to let air into the space below the floorboard, so it was virtually inevitable that at some point we would have issues with rot. The plan is currently to install extra vents and to restore the floor to the pine planks that must have existed before the current chipboard and carpet were laid. We are awaiting a final report from our architect.

I am writing this well before our Easter service, on 31st March: to accommodate this with other services in the benefice we have had to move it back to 11am. We hope we will get support from our friends in Chetton; a number of our regulars also support Chetton in their services and it would be good if this continued and grew. Amongst the other benefits is that at Chetton you will get a change from myself droning on in the pulpit... In April, we go back to our normal service at 10am, on Sunday 21st.

Revd David Poyner – Tel 01562-68638

Email D.R.Poyner@aston.ac.uk

**Glazeley & Deuxhill: St Bartholomew
- A Church Near You**

Marion Corfield – Tel 01746-764585

Marion.corfield@talktalk.net

Billingsley News

The Revd David Poyner writes:

The more observant may have noticed that this winter the area outside the church has often resembled the Somme battlefield on the day after... There have been changes in the water table and so after heavy rain a spring appears that runs down the lane into the drains at Church Cottage. We are very grateful to Sue from Church Cottage for clearing the worst of the mud so that cars (including mine) will no longer get stuck outside the church; once the weather permits, we will work on a long-term solution to this problem.

In April we will start our 6pm evening service again, on the second Sunday of the month. The programme is still to be finalised, but it will include a variety of speakers and topics as in previous years. It looks like I will be doing the first service, when I will speak on "God and the scientist". Some will know that I am a professional scientist who does research as well as teaching; I will explore the relationship between science and religious belief and how I hold these together.

We will restart the **Sunday afternoon walks** in April. Weather permitting, we will meet for the first of these on **Sunday 21st April at 2pm outside the Cape** for a walk to New England and back. Expect mud...

Our **annual parish meeting** takes place on **Friday 19th April at 11am**, venue to be announced.

Billingsley: St Mary - A Church Near You (20+) St Mary's Billingsley Bridgnorth Facebook	David Poyner – Associate Minister Tel 01562-68638 or 0780-100-9693	email D.R.Poyner@aston.ac.uk
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Chelmarsh News

Elizabeth Bebb writes:

It has been a very busy start to the year. Our apologies for the lack of news, but hopefully this review will help to inform you of what has been going on in Chelmarsh in the last few weeks and months.

Our clergy team from across the Benefice have been very active, holding services every week in Chelmarsh in 2024 at 9.30am. We are fortunate to have a small but very loyal congregation who are in attendance regularly and we enjoy welcoming any newcomers or those passing through, it is lovely to see you all.

The recent PCC meeting addressed many of the current issues. As you may already be aware we have loose louvres (not something to be said at speed) in the bell tower which may be of danger. We have roped the area below off as best we can to keep everyone safe and are now in the process of engaging a joiner who we hope will be able to secure them as soon as possible so normal service can be resumed. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may cause. We have also introduced a new baptism policy within the Benefice and we are looking to review the Communion booklet in line with the current Church of England requirements.

Lent lunches were held over the last few weeks and have just finished. The six people who attended enjoyed delicious homemade soup and bread. Please consider joining us next year.

Funerals

Daisy Tipping – Those who have been resident in the village for a long time may remember Daisy who resided here when she was younger. She and three of her sisters have been described as a bunch of flowers, Lily, Rose and Daisy, the fourth sister was Harriet. Daisy was buried in Chelmarsh at the beginning of March. We extend our sympathies to her family and friends.

Cleaning rota: Thursday 18th April 2pm

St. Peter's Chelmarsh 100 Club

Thank you to everyone who has taken a number (or a few numbers) for the 2024 draw. We are grateful for your support. The usual format will apply (£200 for first three draws £100, £50, 2x £25, £250 for final draw £100, £50, 4x £25). We will notify you if you win a prize, winners will be displayed on notice boards around the village. The first draw will be held at Easter – Good Luck!

APCM – Weds 24th April 2024, St Peter's Church Chelmarsh @ 7pm.

This month the annual parochial council meeting will be held. It's open to everyone who would like to attend. If you would like to volunteer to become a member of the PCC please come along. If this is not for you, we would be very pleased if you would still come and support us.

We currently do not have a Churchwarden: if you would like to apply for the position please get in touch with secretaryhighleypcc@gmail.com or Elizabeth_Bebb@hotmail.com or ask at St Peter's for more details we would be delighted to assist you.

The PCC membership and the officer positions in many churches are held by the same people for many years, however it is recommended these positions are cycled at various tenures to offer new opportunities, welcome new faces and to give people a rest from the responsibilities if they need it. Our PCC members, officers and the wider community which is the glue of our church are very dedicated and do a fantastic job, could you consider joining them? Maybe you are a skilful secretary, a property pro, a social media/editorial guru, a star baker or have other skills and expertise you would be keen to share? If so, we would love to welcome you on board either as part of the formal PCC or more informally to join us in our efforts to share the word of God and build connections, so please come along and become involved with the church.

April events:

Daddy's Hat Concert – Saturday 20th April 3pm

This was so good last year we are doing it again! Please join us, we would love to see you there.

Deborah Rose - "...a Welsh singer / songwriter whose emotive, timeless voice has been described by folk legend Judy Collins as 'one of the finest I've heard' "



Daddy's Hat looks forward to coming to Chelmarsh, and will also be at All Saints' Church Neenton on Saturday 18th May at 3:00pm

Rummage Sale – please look out for posters around the village and on Chelmarsh Folk for dates.

Useful community contacts – see page 27

WN Editor adds – this month, with help from Sue and other Chelmarsh connections, we have cleaned up the table of contacts which is now much improved and updated. We hope you find it useful – if there are any more contacts that should be added, or amended then – please let either Elizabeth Bebb or Sue Jakeman know, and they will forward them to us.

More news from abroad

Following their letter which appeared in the February 2024 edition of WN, The Revds Sarah and Simon Cawdell have sent more news from the mission field on which they are serving in Gulu, Northern Uganda.



Dear friends,

We hope and pray that you are well. As I write we are appreciating some cooler weather after some good rain yesterday, which signals the start of planting and planning for the next crops. I know that many of you will be welcoming warmer weather, and also hoping to plant and begin the year's cultivation.

A number of you generously contributed to buy laptops for the college soon after our arrival here. I am delighted to say that we are able to purchase 20 laptops for the college, and the first two arrived yesterday. We have sent this letter to mark their arrival! Do enjoy the photograph. David, the computer tutor and college administrator, is absolutely delighted that each student in a class will be able to access a computer during classes. They will be security marked, and closely monitored, so that they serve the college well. Thank you so very much. Anyone who visits for the next few months will be carrying one in their luggage. More photos in due course!!

Thank you for your prayers and support. It means a lot to us to know that we are not alone in the work here.

Love and blessings, Sarah and Simon



Pictured, from top:
 Melki, Samson and Morris farming God's way
 Shelagh and Ian hand over two laptops to David
 Saturday sewing group with female students at college
 Morris clearing out the pigs

The Stottesdon Group of Parishes

Rector: *post vacant* so for the coming months please contact the churchwardens as below

St Mary, Stottesdon CHURCHWARDEN Clare Tibbits: 01746-718007	St Giles, Farlow CHURCHWARDENS Nigel Savage-Bailey - 07989-308599	Holy Trinity, Sidbury CHURCHWARDEN Andrew Sierakowski - 07934-714149
St Mary, Cleeton St Mary CHURCHWARDEN Sue Dolphin: - 01584 890583	St John, Middleton Scriven CHURCHWARDEN - vacant – so contact Parish Rep Ann Constable	St Michael, Silvington CHURCHWARDEN - vacant – so contact Parish Rep Katie Hickman
<i>In an emergency, please call Revd Joe Simons (01746-464276) for advice.</i>		

April message

Keeping the Show on the Road during the vacancy – part 6

You can read the latest update on the process for the appointment of our new Rector in the statement (on the next page) read by Archdeacon Fiona in churches on Palm Sunday. Whilst we have a disappointing delay, there is still much activity ‘behind the scenes’ as the recruitment process remains actively underway.



So as we continue to strive for a flourishing Christian presence in our parishes, in the two schools and in the wider communities we serve, let’s all take time-out to:

- ✝ celebrate and support the volunteers who work so hard to sustain the church here – the Churchwardens and members of the PCC’s; and to
- ✝ thank the volunteer visiting clergy who are routinely and willingly facilitating our Sunday worship, and Revd Joe Simons for being ‘next door’.

Clare and Chris Tibbits

From the Registers

There were no new entries to report as this edition went to press.

If you are, or someone you know is, in need of prayer or a visit, or Communion at home or elsewhere, during the interregnum, please contact your churchwarden (details above), who will endeavour to help you to arrange this.

Benefice website

We will be trying to keep this updated as necessary during the coming months, so if you need something added to it - or spot an error which needs correcting - please get in touch by email to chris@stottystores.co.uk . Thanks!

The deadline for the May 2024 edition (Stottesdon Benefice Parishes) is to get copy to Chris by first thing on Sunday 21st April - Thanks!

Stottesdon Benefice Group News

-	-		-	-
Sunday 7th April				
09:00	Holy Communion with Revd Justin Bailey	Farlow		
10:30	Morning Prayer with Revd Justin Bailey	Stottesdon		
Sunday 14th April				
09:00	Holy Communion with Revd David Poyner	Cleeton St Mary		
10:30	Holy Communion with Revd David Poyner	Stottesdon		
Sunday 21st April				
10:30	Informal Worship with Revd Neil Dunlop	Sidbury		
11:45	Holy Communion with Revd Neil Dunlop	Stottesdon		
Sunday 28th April				
09:00	Holy Communion with Revd Justin Bailey	Silvington		
10:30	Holy Communion with Revd Justin Bailey	Stottesdon		
Sunday 5th May				
09:00	Holy Communion with Revd Justin Bailey	Farlow		
10:30	Morning Prayer with Revd Justin Bailey	Stottesdon		
Sunday 12th May				
09:00	Holy Communion with Revd John Daniels	Cleeton St Mary		
10:30	Holy Communion with Revd John Daniels	Stottesdon		
-	-	-	-	-

Services for April in the Stottesdon Churches

During the interregnum there will be some changes to the usual service pattern - these times are correct at the time of going to print, but it's always worth checking on our website (A church near you: Stottesdon benefice) or with your churchwarden.

Update on the Stottesdon Benefice Vacancy

An update was personally delivered by the Archdeacon at the two Palm Sunday church services in the Benefice. AD Fiona's message is copied below for sharing by the PCCs and, through Wheatland News, with everyone involved in the six parishes.

"As many will be aware, interviews for the post of House for Duty Rector of the Stottesdon Benefice were held last week. An appointment was not made on this occasion.

We are aware that this will be a disappointment to many, since it will mean an extension to the vacancy. Archdeacon Fiona will be working in the coming weeks to find new dates for a second round of advertising and interviews.

In the meantime, please continue to pray that God will guide us to the right person at the right time, to lead the parishes of the Benefice forward in this next phase of their life and ministry.

This comes with the assurance of our prayers for all in the parishes, particularly the Churchwardens and other lay leaders who have extra responsibilities at this time."

The Right Reverend Richard Jackson
Bishop of Hereford

The Venerable Fiona Gibson
Archdeacon of Ludlow

Stottesdon News

Clare Tibbits writes:

100 Club Subscriptions.

Thanks to everyone who got their renewals in for the 'double money' Easter Draw – the results will be in the next edition!!

St Mary's Heritage Project

Chris Tibbits writes:

Everything was 'on track' as we went to press for the Easter Sunday 'launch' of the new Church Guide, the supporting video shorts and many of the new 'heritage interpretation' displays.

Why not pop in and see for yourselves – St Mary's is open 9-5 daily!

News next month on progress with

- the toilet project!
- the restoration of the treble bell, and
- remedial work to the damp-related damage to the new kitchen (though, after the wettest Spring on record, it's good to report that the roof really is watertight!)

Middleton Scriven News



Ann Constable writes:

Quiz night – Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who supported the quiz. Thank you to all the helpers, food preparers, donators of prizes and raffle prizes and everyone for coming. A very large thank you to our wonderful quiz master Tricia Ward-Jones, plus Donna for scoring.

Congratulations to the winning team of Philip, Jill and Geoff . We all had a very enjoyable evening, the quiz was fun and the lite bite supper excellent.



Pictured here are:

- Middleton Scriven church full of happy quiz teams!
- The Quizmaster and Scorer
- And the Winning Team!

Farlow News

Caroline Billson writes:

100 Club Winners – March

- £20 to Sarah Levi;
- £10 to Doris Price, and to Chrissy & Terry;
- £5 to Jessica & Felicity, and to Joan Phillips.

Farlow AGM will take place after the church service on Sunday 7th April followed by a PCC meeting, All Welcome

Cleeton St Mary News

Sue Dolphin writes:

Activities and events in the church

- **Knit and Natter** every Wednesday in the church 10:00 till 12:00.
- **Saturday Monthly Coffee** morning in church 10:00 till 12:00.

100 Club Results

- £20 – Wendy Dolphin no 109
- £10 each to – Kate Broome no 60 and Eve Wagg no 16
- £5 – Heidi Robinson no 113.

Middleton Scriven community events

Coffee mornings – everyone is welcome! 10am – 12noon in church on Saturday 13th April.

Next month, on 11th May, the Coffee Morning will feature our **annual Plant Sale** - so if you're splitting plants in the garden or growing seedlings, these will be very gratefully received for the sale!

Sidbury and Silvington

Regrettably, we have no news this month from either Sidbury or Silvington.

Community Noticeboard

Farmers' Market on 20th April

is "under and around the crooked spire" at St Mary's Church, Cleobury Mortimer, on the THIRD SATURDAY each month from 09.30-12.30.

Our Local Food Banks

Both are **always** in need of donations of foodstuffs and other goods, and of money to sustain their services: **and never more so than today!!**

Find them on Facebook or call 07960 285520 for BRIDGNORTH or 07519 885943 for CLEOBURY MORTIMER.



Calling all Cricketers!!

The Stottesdon vs Kinlet
40th Annual Village Cricket Match
will be played on
Sunday 2nd June at Kinlet Hall!

PLAYERS are needed!!

All abilities! All genders! All ages!

Interested?

Contact Roger Cook on 07770910927

rogercook@btinternet.com

Raffle and Refreshments on the day –
everyone will be welcome!

Wheatland Diary

Mon	1	Apr	Live music at The Pheasant at Neenton – 5:00pm – see page 13	13
Sat	6	Apr	Coffee morning, St John’s Church, Ditton Priors, 10:30 – 12:00. All welcome - see page 9	9
Sat	6	Apr	Race Night! Ditton Priors Village Hall – tickets and information – see page 10	10
Tues	9	Apr	Ditton Priors Local History Group – AGM – 7:00pm, Ditton Priors VH – see page 11	11
Thurs	11	Apr	Gin Evening – talks and tasting at The Pheasant, Neenton – see page 16 for ticket information	16
Fri	12	Apr	Flicks in the Sticks – The King’s Speech, Chetton Village Hall – see page 15	15
Sat	13	Apr	Aston Botterell Church – Social Breakfast at The Boyne Arms – contact Anne Preece – see page 13	13
Sat	13	Apr	Coffee morning - Middleton Scraven Church – 10:00 am – noon – see page 25	25
Sat	20	Apr	Daddy’s Hat – Deborah Rose sings at St Peter’s Church, Chelmarsh, 3:00 pm. See page 20	20
Sun	21	Apr	Afternoon Walk with Billingsley Church – Cape to New England – see page 19	19
Sat	27	Apr	Chetton Church – Breakfast at The Down – 9:00 am – please advise numbers - see page 14	14
Sun	28	Apr	Spring Lunch – 12:30pm in Ditton Priors Village Hall – Please book your ticket early!! see page 9	9
Sat	4	May	Coffee morning, St John’s Church, Ditton Priors, 10:30 – 12:00. All welcome, see page 9	9
Sun	5	May	100 th Birthday Celebration – Margaret Griffiths invites you! See page 10	10
Mon	6	May	BRIDGNORTH WALK! – see page 10	10
Sat	11	May	Middleton Scraven Coffee Morning and PLANT SALE – see page 25	25
Sun	12	May	Midland Oil Engine Club event at Lower Cockshutt Farm – see page 15	15
Sat	18	May	Ditton Priors Church Fete – see page 10	10
Sat	18	May	Daddy’s Hat at Neenton Church – 3:00pm – details next month	
Sun	19	May	Chetton Annual PLANT SALE – Chetton VH – 10:00 till noon – see page 15	15
Tues	21	May	Brown Clee Medical Practice Patients Participation Group – Ditton Priors VH – see page 8	8
Fri	24	May	Quiz Night and Ploughman’s Supper – Ditton Priors Pavilion – book your place!! see page 10	10

Hereford Diocese weekly newsletter is advertising two opportunities that might interest WN readers.

First, the online, and free, **Property Training** – 2 different sessions about faculties and church maintenance, essential information for Churchwardens etc, but of great interest to many of us. 16 or 17 April and 23 or 24 April. Booking via Eventbrite

Bishop Richard said, in his maiden speech to the House of Lords,

“Hereford is the smallest and most rural diocese in England. We comprise the counties of Herefordshire and the southern half of Shropshire, one parish in Worcestershire and 14 in Wales. Sustaining a diocesan infrastructure with such a small base presents its challenges. For every 800 people who live here, we have one church building, and three-quarters of them are grade I listed.”


The Wheatland News area comprises 17 parishes. Of these 17 parish churches:

- **2 are Grade I listed**
 - **7 are Grade II* listed**
 - **8 are Grade II listed**
- NOT ONE of our Wheatland churches is NOT listed! And incidentally, both Melville Chapel in Farlow, and the Methodist Chapel in Stottesdon are also Grade II listed. We have a huge wealth of precious heritage in our care.

And second, the **Diocese Environment Day** – the event itself is not online, but booking is online by Eventbrite – to be held on 22 June. Primarily aimed at schools and churches, but open to anyone with a wish to find out more about doing more to care for God’s creation.



Useful Community Contacts - revised April 2024

Brown Clee Surgery PPG	Brown Clee Surgery Patient Participation Group (PPG) - email BrownCleePPG@gmail.com , or call Chair Tina Ranson on 01584-878707.
Brown Clee Walkers	Meeting Place for walks - Ditton Priors Church. 01746-712662
Burwarton & District Garden Club	Meets on the 2 nd Thursday of each month from October to June at 2:15pm at Stoke St Milborough VH. Contact secretary Ms Bev Harris on 01584-841845, bev_harris15@yahoo.co.uk
Burwarton & District WI	Contact the Secretary, Helen Groves, on 01746-712466
Burwarton & District Wives Group	Meeting 8pm first Wednesday of the month. Contact Debbie Jones 01746-712421 or Gill Severn 01746-712231
Chelmarsh Bowling	Outdoor bowling in summer (Tuesday evening & Wednesday afternoon), indoor during the winter (Tuesday evenings 7:00 – 9:00pm) at Chelmarsh Parish Hall. Further details from Stan Chapman, 01746-862424
Chelmarsh Games Group	Mainly Canasta and Scrabble! Thursdays at 2:00pm in the Parish Hall. Contact Sue Jakeman on 07531-008876.
Chelmarsh Jubilee Club	Meet at Chelmarsh Sports & Social Club – contact Shell Russon on 07903-162408 for more information
Chelmarsh Parent & Toddler Group	Every Tuesday during term time 9.30 – 11.30 Chelmarsh Parish Hall. Contact Pam Baker 07846-692323
Chelmarsh Parish Hall	Available for hire - booking@chelmarshparishhall.co.uk
Chelmarsh Walking Group	Contact Jen Everitt on 01746-862858 for more information.
Chetton & Glazeley WI	Meets in Chetton Village Hall on the 2 nd Wednesday of the month 7.30pm Sam O’Sullivan 01746-868225
Chetton Folk Dance Club	Meets Chetton Village Hall, last Wednesday of month except August Tel. Janice Burton 01584-823802
Chetton Village Hall	Enquiries - Sue on 01746-789239
Chorley Village Hall	Available for Hire (fully equipped kitchen, digital projection equipment and large screen) contact 07726-763883 – NEW DEDICATED NUMBER DECEMBER 2022
Cleeton & Silvington V H	Zumba - Thursdays 6.30pm 7.30pm all year Ula 01584-890200
Cleobury North Village Hall	Enquiries to 01746-787093 please
	National Centre for Domestic Violence https://www.ncdv.org.uk/contact/ Call 08448-044999. Website gives advice and other means of getting help.
Daddy’s Hat Music & Poetry	Contact on 01746-787419 – leave a message and you will get a call-back!
Ditton Priors Art Group	Village Hall Wednesday morning (except Christmas) 9.30 – 12.30pm all welcome Various visual art forms eg Water Colour, Oils & Acrylics. Contact Gloria Blair on 07794-225532
Ditton Priors History Group	Please contact paul.wilson8992@gmail.com
Ditton Priors Village Hall	Bookings - 07766 392 105 - dittonpriorsalls@gmail.com
Knowle Sports Club	Second hand sales held every first Saturday of the month, 7.30am – 11am proceeds to Children’s Football Field 01584-890644
Little Explorers Pre-School, Ditton Priors	Open Monday to Friday 9.00am – 3.00pm. Contact Wende Lloyd 01746-712506 / 787549
	Shrewsbury Dial-a-Ride Transport Services https://www.shrewsbury-dialaride.co.uk – 01743-450270 Mon-Fri 09:30 – 15:00, Corvedale Buzzard – 01584-700907
Short Mat Bowling – Ditton Priors	Ditton Priors Village Hall Every Tuesday afternoon 2.00 - 4.00pm Wednesday 7.30-10.00pm. Everyone is welcome - try at no charge. Contact Clive Jackson on 01746-718046
Stottesdon & District W.I.	Meets in various venues on the third Wednesday in each month details from Helena Hale 01746-718012 or Clare Tibbits 01746-718007
Stottesdon Gateway Nursery	Pre-school, holiday club and wraparound sessions. An integral part of Stottesdon Primary School, Contact 01746-718769
Tae kwon-do	Eardington Village Hall Thursday, 5:15pm. Contact Neil Morris 07969-996055



Wild Daffodils

At this time of year, the yellow trumpets of daffodils brighten up even the dullest spring day. Most of what we see are planted garden varieties, but a real treat is to find wild daffodils (*Narcissus pseudonarcissus*).

Once widespread, the wild daffodil is now much rarer, having mysteriously declined during the 19th century. It now has a disjointed distribution – for instance it is found mainly in south Devon, pockets of the Black Mountains in Wales, stretches of the Gloucestershire–Herefordshire border country, the Sussex Weald, Farndale in Yorkshire, and the Lake District. Elsewhere, even in suitable habitat, it only occurs in small patches, many miles apart. For example, in churchyards.

The wild daffodil's status as a popular flower was particularly celebrated in the area around Newent, Dymock and Ledbury on the Gloucestershire–Herefordshire border which acquired the nickname of 'The Golden Triangle.' In the 1930s the Great Western Railway ran 'Daffodil Specials', from London for weekend tourists to walk amongst the 'golden tides' and to buy fresh bunches at garden gates. Many farmers and orchard-owners used to have them as a cash-crop, harvested on a 'Pick Your Own' basis. At the end of April, the meadows went back to their function of growing hay or fruit.

A 1930's guide to a village in the Golden Triangle wrote: They are picked by the local women and children and were sold to an agent, who sends them to South Wales, where they find a ready sale for Mothering Sunday and also for Palm Sunday, for many places the old (Welsh) custom of 'flowering the graves' on that day still persists. The daffodils are also sent to northern industrial towns. *Information from Flora Britannica by Richard Mabey*

How to spot a wild daffodil – The wild daffodil is smaller than horticultural varieties, with paler petals and a deeper yellow trumpet-like tube. The leaves are grey/green, flattened and around 15mm wide. It is relatively short (30–35cm) and forms clumps which carpet the ground. A top tip is that unless there are several hundreds of them looking particularly small and washed out, they probably aren't wild!

Please help us to map the churchyards containing wild daffodils by taking a photo on the iNaturalist app and posting it on our Beautiful Burial Grounds project within iNaturalist.

All the best,

Harriet Carty - Diocesan Churchyard Environmental Advisor

www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk – individuals and groups in the diocese receive 20% members discount on all CfGA materials. Use the discount code diomem22